

Swami came to the United States of America in 1982. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from India and a Ph.D. from Florida Tech. He joined the Florida Solar Energy Center in 1982 and has worked there ever since. Dr. Swami has over 40 years of experience in building research, especially in building energy conservation and sustainability—two topics intimately related to climate change.

Dr. Swami is a founding member of the Muthamizh Sangam of Central Florida (MSCF). Started in 1986, MSCF is a non-profit organization devoted to the awareness and promotion of Tamil culture in Central Florida with a vision to bring together all Tamil families who reside in the area. He served as the president of MSCF for over five years and chairman of the board for many years. Dr. Swami was also the president of the Hindu Society of Central Florida (HSCF) from 2012 to 2013. HSCF's focal point is the Hindu Temple in Casselberry and is the cultural, spiritual, and educational center for Central Florida Hindus. He has also served as APAPA's president and vice president for community outreach.

Dr. Swami is considered a pillar of the community for his wide range of community activities. His strength lies in providing leadership, growing the community, and bringing them together—which he has done with great success. He has been instrumental in setting up language schools to preserve the native language, providing leadership training to youth, recruiting and posting students for internships, and advising design teams to win national awards. One such is a first-place design award for the team and to him for faculty advising.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I was not present for the following Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call vote No. 212, On Passage of the bill (S. 2938) To designate the United States Courthouse and Federal Building located at 111 North Adams Street in Tallahassee, Florida, as the "Joseph Woodrow Hatchett United States Courthouse and Federal Building", I would have voted NAY;

Roll Call vote No. 213, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the bill, (H. Res. 1125) Condemning rising antisemitism, I would have voted YEA;

Roll Call vote No. 214, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the bill, (H.R. 5738) Lactation Spaces for Veteran Moms Act, I would have voted YEA;

Roll Call vote No. 215, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the bill (H.R. 7335) MST Claims Coordination Act, I would have voted YEA;

Roll Call vote No. 216, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the bill (H.R. 6961) To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve hearings before the Board of Veterans' Appeals regarding claims involving military sexual trauma, I would have voted YEA; and on

Roll Call vote No. 217, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the bill (H.R. 6064)

Direct the Sec. of VA to seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies for a review of examinations, furnished by the Sec., to individuals who submit claims to the Sec. for compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, U.S.C., for mental & physical conditions to military sexual trauma, I would have voted YEA.

SRI LANKA—MAY 2022

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 13th anniversary of the end of the war in Sri Lanka in May of 2009. The Sri Lankan government won the war to keep the Sinhalese and Tamil communities within one country but has not yet won the peace. In 2015, the Sri Lankan government made commitments on transitional justice and accountability, a political settlement of the ethnic problem, security sector reform, the return of land, the release of Tamil political prisoners, actions to end human rights violations and other ambitious reforms. Unfortunately, not enough improvement has yet been seen by the Tamils, Christians and Muslims who feel marginalized and discriminated against. Instead, in February 2020, the Sri Lankan government withdrew their commitments to implement their goals to transitional justice and accountability made at the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2015.

The U.S. is a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and has initiated resolutions on Sri Lanka since 2012. I'm urging the State Department to start work on a new UNHRC Resolution before Resolution 46/1 expires this September. I suggest this resolution includes:

An extension of the mandate of the OHCHR's special mechanism for evidence collection, especially vital because of the belated start of that mandate in April 2022.

The extension should explicitly determine that:

Evidence collection is not limited to the time period set by Sri Lanka's Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC), which had a mandate of conflict prevention rather than accountability but include the entire war which began in 1983 and the period just preceding when gross human rights violations began, notably from 1979 with the introduction of the notorious Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). Evidence from reputed NGOs should be accepted by the mechanism;

All crimes will be considered, including war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, including what the 2015 report Office of the High Commissioner's Investigation on Sri Lanka (OISL) noted as 'widespread' and 'systematic' crimes by the State against the Tamil population;

A recommendation that the General Assembly act on the evidence collected to provide accountability for mass atrocity crimes by referral to a higher international court such as the International Court of Justice or the creation of a special tribunal for Sri Lanka; and

An operative clause on the immediate need of major constitutional reform under inter-

national supervision and guarantees to achieve a permanent political solution to the longstanding ethnic conflict to achieve regional stability and peace and prosperity for all communities on the island.

RECOGNIZING CAPROCK HIGH SCHOOL'S MCJROTC DRILL TEAMS

HON. RONNY JACKSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Mr. JACKSON. Madam Speaker, today, I am proud to recognize the Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (MCJROTC) Drill Teams of Caprock High School in Amarillo, Texas for their exceptional representation at the 2022 Marine Corps JROTC National Drill Championship.

Over the past three years, Caprock twice placed second at Nationals. These young cadets remained committed to perfecting their skills under the leadership of some of our community's finest, and, this year, they brought home the National Championship trophy. These cadets have exemplified the Marine Corps values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

The National Drill Meet consisted of six team events, with Caprock placing first in two events, second in two events, and fifth in one event. Their efforts secured the program's first National Championship, but I have a feeling it will not be their last.

Since 1971, Caprock's ROTC program has been a part of the Amarillo community. The program has always motivated students to learn, fostered a disciplined and constructive learning environment, and instilled essential skills like time organization, responsibility, goal setting, and teamwork.

I am privileged to represent our National Champion cadets in Congress. They've made me, Caprock High School, and the Amarillo community proud. These students are a part of a tremendous program and have a bright future ahead. Congratulations to the cadets of Caprock High School—Semper Fi.

HONORING PHRA WIJITDHAMMAPANI AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Phra Wijitdhammapani was named Sunan Kruakaew. He was born on August 3, 1957, in Ranot District, Songkhla Province, and was the son of Mr. Pum Kruakaew and Mrs. Om Kruakaew.

At the age of reaching the educational criteria, he attended primary school at Wat Kaset Chonlathi School. After that, he turned his life around to find a temple to study and practice dhamma. On July 14, 1973, at the age of 16, he was ordained as a novice with Phra Kru Suwattanaprasat a preceptor.

On July 1, 1978, at the age of 21, he was ordained at Wat Somanat Vihara, Bangkok with Chao Phrakhun Somdej Phra Wanrat (Jub Thithadhammo), the abbot of Wat Sommant Vihara, to be a preceptor.

Since being ordained as a novice, monks have continued to study the discipline. He was given duties continually related to the community because they must perform their duties in teaching Dhamma and meditation all the time.

In the year 1993, he was assigned by Phra Thepwaraporn and was approved by Chao prakhun Somdej Phra wanrat (Jab Thitadhammo), the abbot of Wat Sommanat Vihara, to practice religious activities in the construction of the Wat Florida Dhammaram in Kissimmee, Florida to be a spiritual center of people of all nations. Teaching both morality and meditation training.

On April 15, 1993, Wat Florida Dhammaram was opened as a meditation center. Then, construction work began on the place of meditation in order to be ready to set up the center for the community to coexist in peace. Wat Florida Dhammaram has been developed progress until the present.

REMEMBERING MICHAEL
"MICKEY" GANITCH

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and service of Michael "Mickey" Ganitch, a United States Navy veteran and Pearl Harbor survivor, who passed away at the age of 102 on Wednesday, May 4, 2022.

Mickey was born in Mogadore, Ohio on November 18, 1919, as one of 14 children. Upon graduating high school in 1937, he left Ohio bound for California. On January 21, 1941, he joined the United States Navy.

Mickey served in the Navy as a Quartermaster, joining the USS *Pennsylvania* in Pearl Harbor on August 15, 1941. On December 7, 1941, while preparing for a football game against the USS *Arizona*, the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service bombardment of Pearl Harbor began. During the second air attack, a 500-pound bomb hit Mickey's ship, narrowly missing Mickey's station in the crow's nest. This attack killed 23 men and left numerous others injured. After the attack, Mickey and the USS *Pennsylvania* served as ammunition support for most major United States military invasions in the Pacific theater throughout World War II. Just before the end of the war, in 1945, Mickey survived another attack when a torpedo struck the ship he was on, killing 20 in Mickey's 26-man crew.

After the war, Mickey continued his service as a recruiter in Oakland. In the early 1960's, he met his wife, Barbara. They went on to marry in 1963. Shortly thereafter, he retired from the Navy as Senior Chief Quartermaster. He continued to work various jobs throughout his life, at a bowling alley, as a fishing net manufacturer, and as a security guard at the Alameda naval air station, where he retired in 1996.

Mickey's active involvement in his community reflected his heart of service. He served as Pearl Harbor Survivors organization state

treasurer and chapter secretary; he volunteered over 7,000 hours with the VA; he was an active member of the Masonic Lodge; and he served as head usher for his church for more than 49 years.

Mickey, Barbara, and their family have resided in the heart of my community since they arrived. I am grateful for his service and his dedication to sharing his story. He is survived by his wife Barbara, with whom he shared nearly 60 years of marriage, his four daughters, 13 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and eight great-great-grandchildren.

CONGRATULATING BARRY S.
STERNLICHT ON HIS DEVOTION
TO CONGREGATION AGUDATH
SHOLOM

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Barry S. Sternlicht for his tireless work on behalf of Congregation Agudath Sholom. His devotion to the congregational family at Agudath Sholom, the local Jewish community in Stamford and to the well-being of Jews worldwide is nothing short of inspiring. The community of southwestern Connecticut is stronger, richer and more inclusive because of the work that he does.

It is my unique honor to recognize Barry for his unyielding dedication and outstanding philanthropic contributions to his congregation. With Barry's generosity, Congregation Agudath Sholom restored its synagogue and in doing so, helped spread the core Jewish value of repairing the world. Barry's commitment to preserving the beauty of Agudath Sholom in the spirit of his father exemplifies a core tenet of Judaism: L'dor V'dor, from generation to generation.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in congratulating Barry on his immense accomplishments.

COMMENDING 50 YEARS OF DIPLO-
MATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES AND THE
STATE OF QATAR

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to commend 50 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and the State of Qatar.

That a country slightly smaller than Connecticut is such an important partner to the United States is no mere accident. Instead, this is the direct result of the dedication and hard work of not only Qatar's leaders, but its people. I would be remiss if I did not give credit to Qatar's leaders who have ensured spending on social programs such as housing, healthcare, education, and pensions. Through this commitment, the people of Qatar have what they need to advance their Nation.

Qatar has also assisted the United States with our diplomatic and military goals in the re-

gion. In 1991, Qatar played a significant role in the Gulf War, particularly during the Battle of Khafji in which Qatari tanks engaged troops loyal to Saddam Hussein. Furthermore, Qatar allowed coalition troops from the United States, Canada, and France to operate in its territory, bolstering Operation Desert Storm. Following this successful arrangement, the United States and Qatar agreed upon the need for a Defense Cooperation Agreement. This pact, which has subsequently been expanded, has served as the basis for military collaboration for the last 30 years.

In 1996, Qatar built Al Udeid Air Base, which now serves as the forward headquarters for U.S. Central Command. Al Udeid is home to the largest U.S. military base in the Middle East and continues to be supported by Qatar, with the Qatari government having provided over \$8 billion in funding for the base over the last 20 years.

Notably, President Joe Biden met with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, in Washington on January 31, 2022. This meeting was the first that President Biden had with a regional leader since he became president and served as a clear signal that Washington views Doha as an important partner in the region. This was underscored when the President told the Emir that the United States would nominate Qatar as a Major Non-NATO Ally. This status recognizes Qatar's growing responsibility as a strong and enduring partner in countering violent extremism, combating terrorism, and deterring external aggressors.

Qatar has also been an invaluable asset on the diplomatic front. Qatar quietly assisted in ending the Israel-Hamas war in May 2021 and continues to be helpful in seeking to improve relations between Israelis and Palestinians.

Without a doubt, Qatar's most significant diplomatic and humanitarian efforts were in the evacuation of more than 100,000 people from Afghanistan after the American withdrawal. Qatar was uniquely positioned because of its ability to speak to various parties on the ground and to escort people through Taliban-controlled Kabul.

A large percentage of the new refugees were brought to Qatar, which arranged housing and other shelter for them as well as food, medicine, and other provisions. At one point, the Qatari military was providing over 50,000 meals per day to the newly arrived refugees. There are still thousands of Afghan refugees in Qatar, where they continue to receive much needed care and assistance.

On September 7, 2021, only weeks after the American withdrawal from Afghanistan, Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III and Secretary of State Antony Blinken flew to Doha to acknowledge the role Qatar played in the transit and care of evacuees from Afghanistan and to thank Qatar for its vital assistance. Secretary Blinken complimented Qatar's efforts in the evacuation saying, "you've facilitated the safe transit of more than 55,000 people. That's nearly half of those who were evacuated in the entire evacuation from Kabul. These are massive numbers. And as I've said a number of times, we spend a lot of time back in Washington talking about numbers: the total number of evacuees, American citizens, and so forth. But you know better than anyone that behind each of these numbers is a real person, is a mother, a father, a sister, a brother, a son, a daughter."